

Court Hearings Opened on Cut In Power Rate

Case Called Nearly
Year After Order
Was to Take Effect

The Potomac Electric Power Co.'s case against the Public Utilities Commission's order to reduce light and power rates by a little more than \$1,000,000 began today in District Court, almost a year after the order was to have been in effect.

The PUC ordered the reduction last July to be effective last March 1. Pepco obtained a restraining order. Pepco's largest customer, the United States Government, entered the case through two agencies, Treasury's Procurement Division and Federal Works Agency.

Both filed requests with the PUC which had come to the District Court in the record of this case. The Procurement Division said the reduction should have been ordered to the amount of \$3,000,000 a year. FWA said the reduction should have been at least \$3,860,000.

The case which started today is an important one in the electric power industry and may affect gas utilities and even railroads. Basic in the case is a dispute as to the method of arriving at evaluation of utility properties on which rates are figured.

Appeal Forecast

Counsel for all parties predicted that the case would be taken to the Court of Appeals and to the Supreme Court regardless of the District Court decision.

The reduction, which amounts to \$1,037,189 a year, has not yet been placed in a new rate schedule pending court action.

Justice J. Foster Symes of Colorado heard the argument of S. R. Bowen, counsel for Pepco in the first session.

Mr. Bowen made two principal points: (1) that the electric rates in effect for the past 20 years was by "mutual agreement" and that a new sliding scale as ordered by the PUC could go in effect only with the consent of the company as had the first one. (2) That the reduction of \$1,000,000 made by PUC in the company's capital figure for rate computation was illegal.

Questioned by Judge

Justice Symes at one point interrupted Mr. Bowen's argument to ask "After the reduction of \$1,000,000 do you contend that the company will get too little return?"

"Unquestionably," Mr. Bowen answered. "This reduction in rates has no legal basis whatsoever," he said.

At this point he asked opposing counsel to answer the preliminary statement of his argument.

George Harrison, assistant corporation counsel, answered: "It strikes me as a very unusual procedure to ask counsel to answer procedural questions. As the court knows they have the burden to show the illegality of this order and it is a very heavy burden."

The litigation is expected to drag on for at least another year.

Wage Arbitration Asked At Woodward & Lothrop

The council of the Union of Woodward & Lothrop Employees, an independent union, has decided to make an arbitration award.

The contract in connection with a request for a \$3 weekly wage raise for all store employees, according to Walter L. Hodgkinson, president of the union.

The action was taken at a meeting of the council Thursday night and Mr. Hodgkinson was appointed arbitrator for the union. Under the contract, Mr. Hodgkinson said, the store and union are entitled to name one arbitrator each, with a third to be chosen by the two.

Mr. Hodgkinson said the union petitioned the firm December 29 for the wage increase and that on January 16 the petition was denied on the ground that it could not be considered in view of "liberalized provisions" in the contract.

Notification of the union action was given to C. G. Booth, store personnel director. Mr. Hodgkinson said. Mr. Booth said the store management had no comment.

Rosenman to Visit Europe As Envoy for Roosevelt

Judge Samuel I. Rosenman, special counsel to President Roosevelt, is going to Europe to make what is being described as a "sort of economic survey" for the Chief Executive.

Mr. Early in announcing the imminent departure of Mr. Rosenman said he would go to England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands and that as the personal representative of the President he would have the rank of minister.

Mr. Early said Judge Rosenman would survey steps to be taken with respect to the flow of vital supplies other than finished munitions to our allies. He is expected to be away two or three months.

Mr. Early said he had not heard of a report that Sumner Welles was going to Argentina as a personal representative of the President.

6,912 of 27,253 Planes
Released by Services Sold

The military services have released 27,253 planes of all types but on the first of this year only 6,912 have been sold, the Surplus War Property Board reports.

The agency did not disclose the amount received for the aircraft. Overall figures on surplus planes released include 21,854 military and 5,399 civilian type. In addition, 104 transports have been allocated to domestic and foreign airlines.

Most planes sold so far, the board said, are the light civilian-type craft which were requisitioned for preliminary Army and Navy training programs when the war started.

\$50 Mile o' Dimes Gift Honors Woman Who Died in Giving



Mrs. Janie Conrad (left) and Mrs. Dora Baum bring \$50 to the Mile o' Dimes Capitol Theater stand given by neighborhood friends of Mrs. Margaret V. Adams, who collected money for the fund from them every year until she died last year. —Star Staff Photo.

This is the first year since the Mile o' Dimes campaign for funds to fight polio began that Mrs. Margaret V. Adams, a tiny little lady in her eighties, hasn't appeared in person at the Mile o' Dimes stand to give the money she raised by canvassing her neighborhood and friends. Last year, on her way home from bringing 10 dimes to the stand, she slipped on the street and died as a result of her injuries.

But the money she would have gathered—even more probably—was brought to the stand today, \$50 given in her memory by the friends and neighbors who remembered how eager she had been to see that each person was a part of the drive.

Mrs. Janie Conrad, with whom Mrs. Adams lived at 607 Seventh street S.W., and her next-door neighbor, Mrs. Dora Baum, took the money to the stand.

"There'll be more," they said. "All the folks around the neighborhood remember her. She'd be so pleased—most people gave her dimes last year. This year, it's dollars."

Telephone Pay Claims To Be Heard at Panel Meeting This Week

The newly-established National Telephone Panel of the National War Labor Board, representing the public, the telephone industry and labor, will hold its first hearings in Washington this week. One of the cases to come before the panel involves the wage claims of 2,250 members of the Washington Telephone Traffic Union against the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co.

A panel announcement refers to the case as one it has "received for preparation for consideration of the board."

The case already has been heard by a special panel which recommended wage increases of \$3 or \$4 a week if the proposed schedule would be found permissible under the national wage stabilization policies. The company accepted the panel recommendation but the union was dissatisfied.

Al Philip Kane, union attorney, said the panel had ignored complaints over paying operators "borrowed" from other cities \$18.70 weekly as living expenses.

Under the former procedure special panel rulings went to the Wage Stabilization Administration and then to the Review Committee of the War Labor Board. Now all cases go to the national panel and that panel makes recommendations directly to the Labor Board. Some of those concerned believe the National Telephone Panel may become an important instrument in stabilizing policies in the telephone industry.

Another pending case is one in which the Federation of Telephone Workers of the District is asking wage increases. This is a voluntary case in which the company has agreed to the increases asked, but there has been no final determination.

Mr. Early in announcing the imminent departure of Mr. Rosenman said he would go to England, France, Belgium and the Netherlands and that as the personal representative of the President he would have the rank of minister.

Mr. Early said Judge Rosenman would survey steps to be taken with respect to the flow of vital supplies other than finished munitions to our allies. He is expected to be away two or three months.

Mr. Early said he had not heard of a report that Sumner Welles was going to Argentina as a personal representative of the President.

6,912 of 27,253 Planes
Released by Services Sold

The military services have released 27,253 planes of all types but on the first of this year only 6,912 have been sold, the Surplus War Property Board reports.

The agency did not disclose the amount received for the aircraft. Overall figures on surplus planes released include 21,854 military and 5,399 civilian type. In addition, 104 transports have been allocated to domestic and foreign airlines.

Most planes sold so far, the board said, are the light civilian-type craft which were requisitioned for preliminary Army and Navy training programs when the war started.

The military services have released 27,253 planes of all types but on the first of this year only 6,912 have been sold, the Surplus War Property Board reports.

The agency did not disclose the amount received for the aircraft. Overall figures on surplus planes released include 21,854 military and 5,399 civilian type. In addition, 104 transports have been allocated to domestic and foreign airlines.

Most planes sold so far, the board said, are the light civilian-type craft which were requisitioned for preliminary Army and Navy training programs when the war started.

Williams Named Chief of REA By President

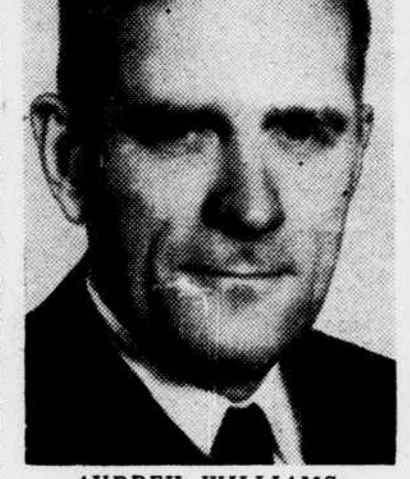
Succeeds Slattery,
Who Resigned After
Blast at Wickard

President Roosevelt today nominated Aubrey Williams, former administrator of the National Youth Administration, to be administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, a post which Harry Slattery resigned last year with a blast charging Secretary of Agriculture Wickard had been guilty of "illegal acts."

Mr. Williams resigned as chief of the National Youth Administration in September, 1943, and became director of organization for the Eastern and Southern States for the National Farmers' Union. He had been head of NYA since July, 1939.

Mr. Slattery also was named REA administrator in 1939. He submitted his resignation November 25. It was announced by the White House December 11 and at the same time Mr. Slattery issued a statement in which he said the situation in REA had become "intolerable and increasingly intolerable."

Slattery Accused Wickard.
He accused Mr. Wickard of having "by-passed and displaced" him by investing most of the administrative powers in a deputy REA administrator whom Mr. Slattery identified as William J. Neal. He



AUBREY WILLIAMS.

said he decided to leave the REA in order to carry the fight to the public.

Mr. Williams first was called to Washington by Harry L. Hopkins, then Federal Emergency Relief Administrator, who appointed Mr. Williams field representative of the FEPA in the Southwest. Later he became deputy works progress administrator.

When the NYA was created by presidential order he became executive director while serving as deputy administrator of WPA.

Served in Foreign Legion.
Mr. Williams is a native of Alabama and is 54 years old. He grew up in Birmingham. In the World War, after serving with the YMCA, he joined the French Foreign Legion, transferring to an American field artillery unit when our troops became engaged. He was wounded and later was commissioned a lieutenant.

After the armistice he received a degree in philosophy from the University of Bordeaux. Returning to this country he engaged in social work, becoming secretary of the Wisconsin conference of Social Work in 1922 and, 10 years later, joining the staff of the American Public Welfare Association.

Mr. Slattery's resignation from REA ended a controversy with the White House that lasted more than a year. At one time Jonathan Daniels, administrative assistant to the President, refused to testify before a Senate agricultural subcommittee regarding the REA and Mr. Slattery. Later he changed his mind and told the committee the President had not been satisfied with Mr. Slattery's work and in June, 1943, had offered the post to the late Senator Norris, Independent, of Nebraska.

Indian Cabinet Member
To Speak at Press Club

Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, sister of Jawaharlal Nehru, Indian independence leader and the first woman to attain cabinet rank in the United Provinces of India, will address a meeting at the National Press Club Auditorium at 8 p.m. Monday, January 29, under auspices of the National Committee for India's Freedom.

It was erroneously announced in Saturday's Star that the meeting would be held tonight.

Aides Are Needed
At Bolling Field

The transport bearing its load of wounded from the battlefields of Europe settles on the field. As the men are helped or carried from the plane into the Bolling Field Station Hospital, they see a group of women in blue pinafores.

The men, only a few days out of battle, can't believe they're actually home again. The women in blue ask if there's anything they want. They ask for a coke, a milk shake. The women scatter to the post exchange.

Later, there is the job of making them comfortable until they are transferred to other hospitals for the weeks or months of treatment that lie ahead, but the men don't forget the reception they got at Bolling Field from the women in blue with the Red Cross on their perky caps.

One of Many Duties.
These women are Red Cross nurses' aides. Meeting hospital planes is only one of their many duties on the wards of the Bolling Field Station Hospital. Their patients include pilots returning from overseas, veterans of many battle missions now stationed at the field, the men of the Army Air Forces throughout Washington.

Like all Army hospitals, the field hospital is suffering from a shortage of nurses as every Army nurse who can be spared is shipped to the fighting fronts.

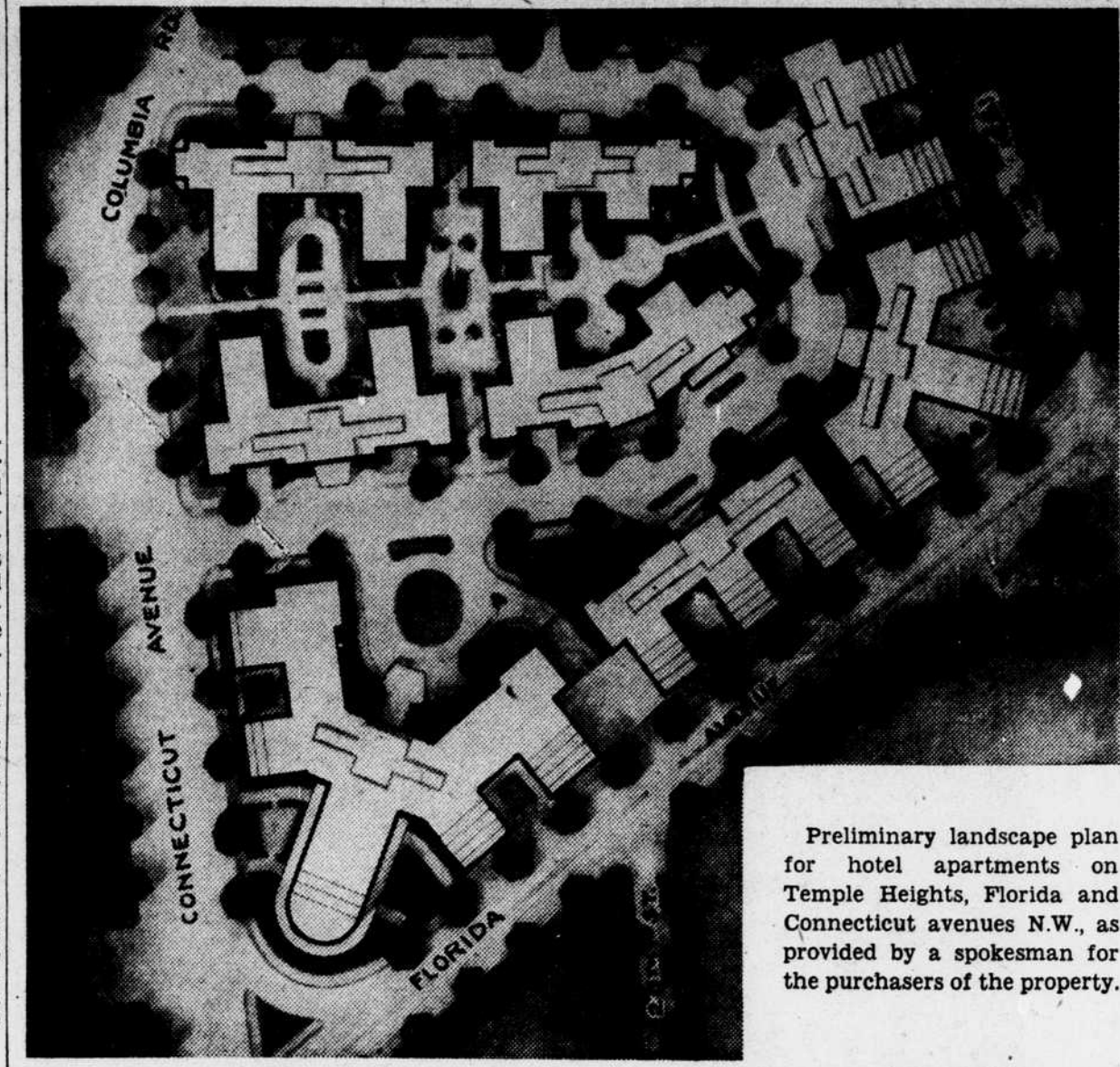
But the Bolling Field hospital has some individual problems, too. The winter months have increased illness.

A number of Red Cross nurses' aides have been trained to serve at the hospital as a means of meeting the crisis in nursing care but many of those trained were Army wives. They worked faithfully at the hospital but one after another have had to leave Washington as their husbands were transferred.

New Class To Open.
These aides must be replaced. In order to train other women to do their jobs, the District Red Cross will start a new class for nurse's aides at the Bolling Field hospital next Monday.

Since an Army nurse will devote some of her precious hours to the class—and they are precious hours now that so few nurses have to do so much—the Red Cross wants to make sure that the class will be filled. It takes 33 women to complete a class.

This is the chance for women who live near Bolling Field to volunteer for a real war job. They'll know just how real it is when they join the group of women in blue pinafores watching a hospital plane come out of the sky.



Staged Robbery to Get County Aid for Family, Father of 3 Says

A father of three children who said he committed a theft and then turned himself over to District police so Prince Georges County authorities would support his family, pleaded guilty in Municipal Court today to charges of stealing \$5 from a gas station.

The case was referred to the probation office by Judge John P. McMahon.

The defendant, Roscoe A. Bricker, 33, of West Lanhams, Md., walked into No. 2 precinct yesterday and told police he had robbed a gas station at 1617 Fourteenth street N.W., where he had formerly been employed. Bricker, a small, thin man, said he was separated from his wife and three children and that he was burdened down by debt and unable to meet his weekly payment of \$30 to her.

Saturday when he heard that his family was about to be evicted from their home and after the gas and electricity had been shut off, Bricker told police he committed the robbery so that the county would be forced to support his family.

Police said that Edwin Feldman, proprietor of the gas station, reported a battery and a quantity of gas coupons also missing.

District Grand Jury Indicts 33; Youths Accused in Robberies

Robert A. Sykes, 20, of the 300 block of Seventeenth place N.E., was indicted today on two charges of robbery and one of assault with intent to commit robbery. These were among 33 indictments returned by the District grand jury before Justice James W. Morris.

In two of the cases, an accomplice was named with Sykes. In one case, Sykes is charged jointly with Kendall E. Rhinehart, 18, of Edmonston, Md., with robbing James B. Carneal, 400 block of Sixth street N.W., of \$216 after Mr. Carneal had left his place of business.

In another case, Sykes is charged jointly with Samuel A. Trewella, 18, of the 300 block of T street N.E., and John Patterson, 18, of N.W., with assault to commit robbery in a High's ice cream store at Fourth and K streets N.E.

Robbery Thwarted.
The robbery was thwarted, according to police, first by the refusal of Mrs. Evelyn W. Behlen, a clerk, to open a cash drawer for them and secondly when she told them money for the day already had been picked up by a man collecting it. The youths left soon afterwards, it was said.

Sykes also was charged with robbing a woman of her pocketbook containing a small amount of cash. Several younger boys who are said to have participated in the alleged offenses have been turned over to juvenile authorities, it was said.

Others charged with robberies in today's indictments included Furman Tibbs, 22, colored, of the 400 block of N street N.W., and Clarence M. Carroll, 35, colored, accused of robbing a colored man of \$37, and James E. Riley, 19, colored, of the 1300 block of Vermont avenue N.W., accused of snatching a pocketbook containing more than \$50 from a colored woman.

Accused of Impersonating Officer.
Karl W. Church, 35, whose home was said to have been in Baltimore, and who is said to have been married five times, was indicted on charges of illegally wearing the uniform of a commander in the Navy, of causing a bad check for \$125 to be transported in interstate commerce in violation of the National Stolen Property Act and also on a charge of obtaining a handbag while falsely representing himself to be a Navy commander.

Marie C. Z. Basile, 47, said to be the proprietor of a hotel in the 800 block of Mount Vernon place N.W., and John Patterson, colored, said to be a houseman in the hotel, were indicted on pandering charges.

William Lee, colored, of the 3000 block of Sherman avenue N.W., was indicted on a charge of criminally assaulting a 16-year-old colored girl.

The indictments were presented to the grand jury by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph P. Lawless.

AWVS Issues Call
For Daytime Drivers

A plea for daytime drivers to operate Army and war agency cars, city hospital ambulances and the American Women's Voluntary Service Navy Relief ambulance has been issued by the AWVS Motor Transport Division.

Experienced drivers with District licenses are asked to call Dupont 1478 or visit AWVS headquarters, 1520 Twenty-second street N.W.

Hecht Presents Swing

Raymond Gram Swing, radio commentator and writer, will be heard in Washington over Radio Station WMAL and the Blue Network Monday through Friday at 7:15 p.m., sponsored by the Hecht Co., it was announced today.

Temple Heights Plans Call for \$2,500,000 Building Project

Preliminary plans for buildings proposed for construction on Temple Heights, Connecticut and Florida avenues N.W., were disclosed today by a spokesman for purchasers of the property, an undisclosed New York syndicate.

Plans, according to the preliminary sketch, call for erection of eight buildings to house apartment and hotel-apartment suites.

The project is in charge of the architectural firm of E. Burton Corning and Raymond G. Moore. Associated with them in planning are Pierre Ghent and Associates and Associated Engineers, Inc.

Setback Terraces.
Buildings along the Nineteenth street and Florida avenue frontages will have four floors of setback terraces which will overlook downtown Washington, it was said.

The purchasers point out that under zoning regulations 75 per cent of the site could be occupied by buildings, but that by careful planning building occupancy will total less than 36 per cent of the property.

Loss of some trees on the property, it was said, would be "more than offset" by liberal use of evergreens, flowering trees and shrubs. Many maple trees will be transplanted and used for street trees, according to present expectations.

Included in the plans are provisions for a sunken garden, nursery school, kindergarten, health club, gymnasium, swimming pool, clinic, sun decks and family and hotel-type dining rooms.

The entire project will be air conditioned. Style of the buildings will be "straightforward and functional," and in keeping with Connecticut avenue "styles and traditions," it was said.

\$2,500,000 Project.
Capitalized valuation of the property for development purposes is in excess of \$2,500,000, it was said.

Last Thursday Senator Capper, Republican, of Kansas introduced a bill for purchase of the property by the United States as a memorial to "defenders of the Union" in the Civil War. The bill would authorize an appropriation of not more than \$900,000 to cover cost of purchase of the site.

The 9½-acre tract recently was purchased from the Grand Lodge of Masons of the District by the New York group. A number of years ago plans had been announced by another group for a development to have been known as Crystal City and to have been built on plans by the noted architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

Protest against the current plans has been voiced by the Temple Heights Tree Committee, which seeks to preserve trees on the property.

Increase in maximum weekly benefits to \$25, including dependents' allowances, to make benefits cover one-half of the wage loss of unemployment.

Increase duration of benefits to 26 weeks.

The board renewed previous recommendations for a system of insurance for medical and hospital care.

President Calls on Public
To Grow, Conserve Food

President Roosevelt today called on the American public to do everything possible to produce food and see that it is conserved and shared.

The President declared such action is necessary because "the demands for our food at home and abroad are so great."

Asked if the statement foreshadowed "any more food rationing steps," President Secretary Stephen T. Early said that question should be put to the War Food Administration.

First Lt. Neil R. Collier, jr., 23, whose father, Comdr. N. R. (Rex) Collier, is a member of the editorial staff of The Star on military leave, is missing in action, the War Department has informed his family.

Lt. Collier, a pilot for the 2d Troop Carrier Squadron of the 10th Air Force, operating in the India-Burma theater, recently was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross and has two Oak Leaf Clusters on his Air Medal.

He has been missing since January 7, the War Department disclosed. A letter received from him today was written January 6.

During his first four months in the India-Burma theater he flew 252 combat flying hours.

Lt. Collier attended Washington and Lee High School in Arlington, and Devitt School, and American University here.

His father is in charge of public relations of the 1st Naval District with headquarters in Boston. He and Mrs. Collier are living in Cambridge, Mass., with their youngest son, Jack. Another son, William, is a Navy flyer overseas. Their home is on Old Dominion road, Arlington.

Third World War Brewing in Asia, Conference Told

Churches Must End
Poverty of People,
Missionary Warnings

Dr. Frank Laubach, author and missionary, told the opening meeting of the spiritual fortification and national dedicatory conference sponsored by the National Committee for Christian Leadership today at the Hotel Statler that a third world war is brewing in Asia, where more than three-fifths of the people are illiterate and desperately impoverished.

The conference opened today with Nathaniel Leverone, Chicago, president of the committee, presiding.

Dr. Laubach said the people in Asia need a program which will aid them in overcoming the poverty-stricken conditions leading to "an explosion" that may result in a catastrophic war. He said the churches are now planning a survey of these areas and seeking to learn their greatest needs. Dr. Laubach also said that they are trying to get 100,000 men with technical training to go and help these people. He added that there is a movement to interest colleges in our country to train these people in such lines as agriculture, medicine and similar subjects so they can minister to the stricken peoples.

States Aim of Conference.
Mr. Leverone opened the session by stating that the aim of the conference is to "create better leadership in the Nation in industry, business, education and politics." He said that many men in high positions have high ideals which they are afraid to follow out and hopes that this movement will show them popular support for these ideals.

Stuart Krohn of Chicago outlined the program of the breakfast groups. He said the program should consist of a series of breakfasts at which it is possible to discuss the problems that must be followed. Mr. Krohn said that the largest percentage of "broken men" he has met in his work were college graduates.

The conference will be concluded at 4 p.m. tomorrow with a general assembly open to the public at the Departmental Auditorium, Constitution avenue and Twelfth street N.W. Abraham Vereide, executive director of the conference, is in charge of the conference.

Senators to Speak.
Senators Hoyer, Democrat, of North Carolina; Connally, Democrat, of Texas; and Wiley, Republican, of Wisconsin, are scheduled to address the dinner meeting at 6:30 p.m. today at the hotel. Among the speakers listed to address this and other meetings are Representatives Judd, Republican, of Minnesota; Zimmerman, Democrat, of Missouri; Dr. Walter Dill Scott, Lutheran Hour radio preacher; St. Louis, Dr. Clark, St. Paul, Minn., and the Rev. W. Tolbert-Hindley, Montreal, Canada.

The committee sponsoring the conference was formed in 1943 "to co-ordinate and direct on a national basis" the efforts of churches, luncheon and fireside groups seeking to make "a workable program with a clear perspective and a new life of confidence in God."

3-Day Seminar Slated
For Methodist Group

A three-day seminar on "America's Role in World Affairs," with emphasis on the global mission of the church in postwar reconstruction, will be held at American University, starting April 10, Dr. William K. Anderson, head of the Methodist General Conference, announced today.

The commission, which is sponsoring the seminar expects more than 150 Methodist ministers to attend. Dr. Paul F. Douglass, president of the university, announced that three courses have been prepared. The courses, and the men who prepared them, are: "Christianity and World Affairs," by Dr. Douglass; "The Christian Church," by Dr. Potter; and "The Christian Church," by Dr. Potter.

Dr. Potter, Piquet, and Ross each have charge of the program for one day. They announced that Government officials will address the classes on special aspects of the studies.

Daily Rationing
Reminders

Meats, Fats, Etc.—Book No. 4, red stamps Q-5 through X-5 good for 10 pounds indefinitely. Next series will be good January 28.

Canned Goods, Etc.—Book 4, blue stamps X-5, Y-5, Z-5, A-2 through G-2 good for 10 points each indefinitely. Next series will be good February 1.

Points for Fats—Your meat dealer will pay two ration points for each pound of waste kitchen fats you turn in.

Sugar—Book 4, sugar stamp 34 good for 5 pounds indefinitely. Another will be validated February 1.

Gasoline—A-14 coupons valid for 4 gallons each through March 21. B-5, C-5, B-6 and C-6 coupons good for 5 gallons each.

Shoes—Airplane stamps 1, 2 and 3 in Book No. 3 good indefinitely for one pair of shoes each.

Fuel Oil—Periods one, two and three coupons good for 10 gallons per unit through heating year. Period four coupons valid February 5. Old four and five coupons from last winter good through year. Consumers in this area should not have used more than 53 per cent of their ration as of today.